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How does the IRS Data Retrieval Tool work?

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool allows students and parents to access the IRS tax return information needed to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and transfer the data directly into their FAFSA from the IRS Web site.

(Note: There are several scenarios in which you might not be given the option to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, including if you are not [eligible](#) to use it.)

To use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool within the application on the student or parent finances pages:

1. If you indicated that you recently filed your taxes or have already used the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer your tax return information into your application, then click the “View option to link to the IRS” hyperlink. (Note: If you are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool and have not previously used it to transfer your tax return information into your application, then the “View option to link to the IRS” hyperlink does not display; skip ahead to step 2.)
2. Enter your FSA ID and click Link To IRS. (Note: Students will not be asked to enter their FSA ID if they entered an FSA ID to begin their FAFSA.)
3. Your FAFSA will be saved and you will be transferred to the IRS Web site.
4. On the IRS Web site, enter the requested information exactly as it appears on your tax return.
5. After the IRS has validated your identification, your IRS tax information will display. You can either transfer your information from the IRS, or choose to return to FAFSA on the Web.

Help | SEARCH

Student Demographics | School Selection | Dependency Status | Parent Demographics | **Financial Information** | Sign & Submit | Confirmation

Student Financial Information

☒ Application was successfully saved.

For 2013, have you completed your IRS income tax return or another tax return?

For 2013, what is your tax filing status according to your tax return?

You may be able to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to view and transfer your tax information from the IRS.

Did you file an amended tax return?
☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you file a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return?
☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you file your taxes electronically in the last 3 weeks (or by mail in the last 11 weeks)?
☐ Yes ☒ No

Based on your response, we recommend that you transfer your information from the IRS into this FAFSA.

[LINK TO IRS](#)

Help and Hints

Student Filed 2013 Income Tax Return?

Question 32

You must select the answer that describes your tax filing status:

- Already completed
- Will file
- Not going to file

If you indicate you “Will file” a 2013 tax return and your 2013 income is similar to your 2012 income, use your 2012 income tax return to provide estimates for questions about your income. If your income is not similar, click **Income Estimator** for assistance estimating your adjusted gross income, and answer

If you transfer your IRS tax information, questions that are populated with that tax information will be marked with “Transferred from the IRS.”

Note: The person whose tax information is being transferred should enter his or her FSA ID.